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(54) **Machine for packaging stacks of articles in wrapping sheets**

(57) The machine includes a first line for conveying and separating the piles of articles; a second line for feeding heat-weldable wrapping sheets to a working station; a third line, fed upstream with piles coming from the first line and passing crosswise the working station, in which at least one pile is moved to strike the sheet placed in waiting position in the working station. The sheet is progressively folded around a longitudinal out-line of the pile, and the relative parallel edges are overlapped and heat-welded. The second line (2) includes

a first working group (G1) aimed at receiving a wrapping sheet (F,P*) from conveying means (16), situated upstream. The sheet (F,F*) corresponds to a size (P,P*) of a pile of articles and is connected to a relative film (K) by a pre-broken line. A second working group (G2), arranged in cascade to the first group (G1), from which it receives the sheet, is aimed at cooperating with the first group to first detach the sheet (F,F*) from the film at the pre-broken line and then to place the sheet vertically in the working station (So). A control unit (C) operates and verifies the first and second groups (G1,G2).

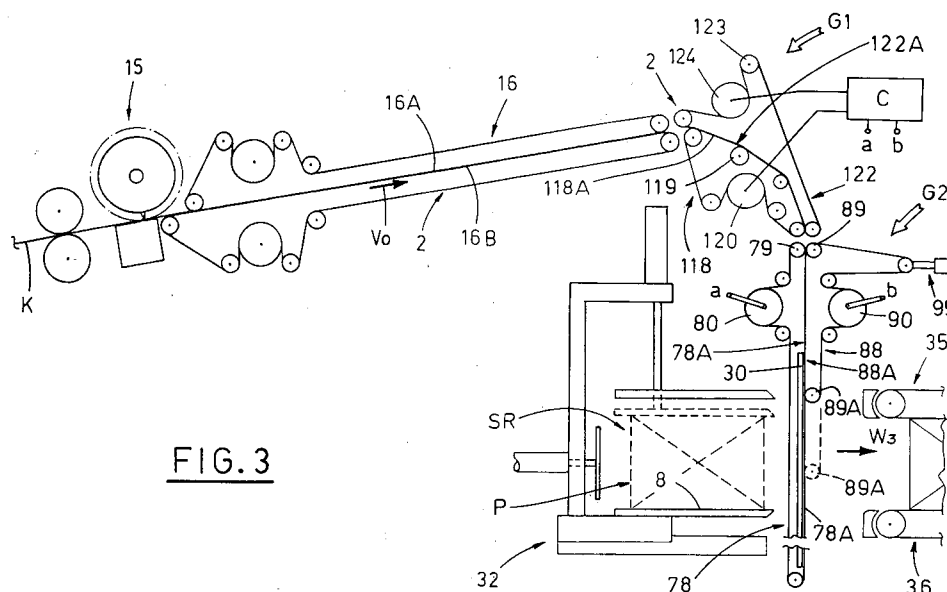


FIG. 3



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 01 6222

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 26 February 2003	Examiner Vigilante, M
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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